Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A sandwich structure for protecting a fixed or mobile installation or equipment, said sandwich structure comprising:

~~an inner layer and~~

an outer plate made of a very ductile material **and designed to resist first impacts of projectiles, the outer plate having a full surface and a constant thickness over all said full surface;**

an inner layer made from a very hard material to stop projectiles that passed through the outer plate;

spacers ~~fixed~~ **for disposing the outer plate** at a distance from the inner layer ~~and designed to resist the first impacts of projectiles~~, **so that no part of the outer plate has any contact with the inner layer; and,**

fixing means for fixing the outer plate to the inner layer at the location of the spacers ~~the inner layer is being made from a very hard material to stop projectiles that passed through the outer plate, the outer plate having a constant thickness and being fixed on the inner layer using spacers~~.

2. Cancelled.

3. (Twice amended) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, further comprising:

conducting elements ~~placed~~ **distinct from the outer plate, said conducting elements being fixed to said outer plate and extending** between the outer plate and the

inner layer to provide electrical continuity between the ~~plates~~ **outer plate and the inner layer, each conducting element having a bore, and,**

attachment screws disposed in said bores at a distance from the inner layer for fixing the conducting elements to said outer plate.

4. Cancelled.

5. (Previously presented) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein the inner layer is made of steel and the outer plate is made of aluminum.

6. (Twice amended) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein each spacer **has a hollow tubular shape, and** is provided with a threaded bore designed to hold an attachment screw fixing the outer plate onto the spacer.

7. (Twice amended) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein each spacer is provided with a threaded bore **having a first end and a second end**, **said threaded bore being** designed to hold**, at said first end,** an attachment screw fixing the spacer onto the inner layer and**, at said second end,** an attachment screw fixing the outer plate onto the spacer.

8. Cancelled.

9. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein the spacers have bores for the passage of the fixing means therethrough, at least some of said bores being oblong.

10. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 9, wherein the bores are threaded and the fixing means include screws.

11. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, comprising a series of inner layers and outer plates, the inner layers of the series are assembled together for defining a vehicle bodywork and said vehicle bodywork is covered on the outside by said series of outer plates.

12. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 11, wherein the inner layers of the series are steel plates.

13. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein the outer plate has an entirely flat shape.

14. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 3, wherein the conducting elements are flexible to enable differential dilatations between the outer plate and the inner layer.

15. (New) A sandwich structure for protecting a fixed or mobile installation or equipment, said sandwich structure comprising:

an outer plate made of a very ductile material and designed to resist first impacts of projectiles, the outer plate having a full surface and a constant thickness over all said full surface,

an inner layer made from a very hard material to stop projectiles that passed through the outer plate,

spacers interposed between the outer plate and the inner layer for disposing the outer plate at a distance from the inner layer, so that no part of the outer plate has any contact with the inner layer, said spacers having bores, and,

fixing means for fixing the outer plate to the inner layer at the location of the spacers, said fixing means extending through said bores and through holes of the outer plate.

16. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 15, wherein the outer plate has a peripheral edge, and at least one of the spacers is interposed between the outer plate and the inner layer, at a distance from said peripheral edge.